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HOUSE MEMORIAL

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

James Roger Madalena

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A MULTIAGENCY STUDY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST
NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN; SUPPORTING THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS OF
THE INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ON BEHALF OF NATIVE
AMERICAN WOMEN, CHILDREN AND ELDERS WHO HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO
VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, BATTERING AND STALKING.

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico has a Native American
population whose families, including infants, children, youth,
adults and elders, suffer at increased rates from intimate
partner violence, family violence and stalking; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the state to urge a
collaborative response to address the problems of women,
children and elders who have been subjected to such violence;
and

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1 WHEREAS, Native American traditions honor, respect and
2 revere women as the essential life-giving force, as guardians
3 of cultural attributes and endowed with the knowledge to
4 sustain and deliver traditional values for generations to come;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Native American women experience high rates of
7 domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking within New
8 Mexico and across the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, culturally compatible shelters, resources and
10 rehabilitative institutions are insufficient to meet the needs
11 of tribal communities and not conducive to the health and well-
12 being of all family members and intimate partners; and

13 WHEREAS, the prevalence of violent crimes against Native
14 American women by non-native perpetrators poses additional
15 legal complications, as non-native perpetrators sometimes are
16 left unprosecuted and unpunished because of jurisdictional
17 loopholes; and

18 WHEREAS, the future of the state of New Mexico rests in
19 its protection of all constituents through its legal
20 structures, state departments and systems of governance to
21 ensure the safety, quality of life and well-being of women; and

22 WHEREAS, making it possible for Native American women,
23 their children and elders to live in an environment free of
24 violence, sexual assault and stalking is not only important but
25 also critical; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Indian affairs department, children, youth
2 and families department and department of health have the
3 capacity and resources to examine and assess the scope of
4 issues associated with disproportionate rates of violence
5 against Native American women;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state
8 increase awareness of violence, stalking and sexual assault
9 against Native American women; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house of representatives
11 request the Indian affairs department to convene an interagency
12 working group on Native American domestic violence that
13 includes its staff and staff from the children, youth and
14 families department and department of health to study the
15 specific domestic violence problems of Native American women
16 and to pinpoint culturally important distinctions in successful
17 treatment of Native American women, children and elders who
18 have suffered domestic violence; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency working group
20 on Native American domestic violence report its findings and
21 conclusions to the interim Indian affairs committee during the
22 2007 interim; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency working group
24 on Native American domestic violence engage in collaborative
25 efforts to end violence against Native American women; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the secretary of Indian affairs, the secretary
3 of children, youth and families and the secretary of health.

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